I. Slide1 **Announce:** _Stir (Kevin & Zach)_
   A. Easter Times:
   B. Slide2 Women’s Retreat Registration - Cindy is taking registration in the foyer.
   C. Slide3a Women’s Aspire Conf - Fri night May 1st here. Tickets in back.

II. Slide3b **Intro:**
   A. Last chapter it was _Weep & Pray_, this chapter it is _Wait & Pray_.
   B. Recap Nehemiah’s concerns from ch.1 (1:2-4)
   C. Slide4 **Patriotism.** I like what _Adlai/Add-lay Stevenson II_ [Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.] said, _Patriotism was not a short & frenzied outburst of emotion, but the tranquil & steady dedication of a lifetime._
      1. Remember Nehemiah was praying for his nation _before_ he even had _seen it_, or _lived in it…now that’s true Patriotism._
   D. Slide5 Title: **3 + 3**
      1. 3 qualities of a great leader: Waiting, Praying, Asking.
      2. 3 essentials to Christian Service: Investigation, Cooperation, Determination.

III. Slide6 **WAITING (1)**
   A. Nehemiah _didn’t_ up and quit his job & _then_ make haste to Jerusalem.
      1. Slide7 Suetonius [soo-A-TONE-ee-us] (Roman historian, just after time of Christ) _said,_ _Make haste slowly._
      2. **No, he prayed & worked faithfully for 4 months.**
      3. He waited to approach the king in the Lord’s time.
         a) Is there anything he is asking _you_ to wait for right now?
         b) _How_ are you dealing with it? Need some tips? (Nehemiah Nuggets)
   B. Slide8a 3 scriptures that help us _not_ to rush into things:
      1. **Stand still** and see the salvation of the LORD. Ex.14:13
      2. Slide8b **Sit still** my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day. Ruth 3:18
      3. Slide8c **Be still** and know that I am God. Ps.46:10
   C. **Waiting** on the Lord is not _wasting_ time but _investing_ time.
      1. Working _is_ easier than waiting…but _wait any ways_.
      2. A Latin Proverb, _Impulse manages all things badly_.

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D. Slide9a Do you have faith to wait?

1. Let these Scriptures seep in:
   a) Is. 28:16 Whoever believes will not act hastily.
   b) Is.30:18b Blessed are all those who wait for Him.
   c) Hab.2:1-3 I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

2. Slide9b Faith + Patience ≠ laziness

3. In what area is the lord asking you to wait in?

IV. Slide10 PRAYING (2-4)

A. Why was Nehemiah afraid? What was the rule of the day?
   1. No one was to appear before the king w/sadness or bad news.
   2. Esther 4:1,2 When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.
   3. You could lose you life for having one bad day at the office.
   4. My, how some have perfected the act of sadness among others.
      a) Each time you speak to them it is the whoa is me syndrome. Often simply seeking attention (I’m not referring to those legitimately sad)

B. Through fear…a splendid courage.
   1. His secret?…Prayer.
   2. He was effective in his 911 Prayers because he spent much time alone w/the Lord. i.e. all of chapter 1. And 4 months worth so far.
      a) Regular times of prayer must be the context for all our instant prayers.

C. Do you talk to God like this throughout your day?

D. Interesting to note, Nehemiah could come to the *God’s Throne of Grace* any time, but he had to **wait an invitation** before *Artaxerxes throne*?

E. (3) In typical *Rabbinical Jewish fashion*, he answers a question, w/a question. (not demanding)

F. Tombs – why does he mention this?
   1. A pagan monarch wouldn’t be moved to sorrow over **the ruins** of Jerusalem, but would show respect for **the dead**.

V. Slide11 **ASKING (5-10)**

A. He needed safe passage & building materials.

B. He answers the king **confidently & respectfully**.
   1. Which of these 2 do you struggle with?
   2. If you were telling the story to a friend would it come across too confident w/no respect? Like, (with attitude) then I told that king...]
   3. Or would you show **respect only & leave off any confidence**? [uh, uh, uh, I don’t need anything Mr.King Sir!]
      a) Remember you’re one of **The Kings kids**. *When you speak up for your King, or on behalf of Him, or as an ambassador from Him...Speak up, with respect.*

C. So he asks for 2 things:
   1. Slide12a **SEND ME (5,6)**
      a) Whenever God wants to get a work done, He uses **willing** people. (He can override of course)
      b) Nehemiah had been **planning** his work **carefully**, so he was able to give the king satisfactory answers.
      c) **It is not clear thinking & organization OR Prayer. But instead**...
         Slide12b **Prayer + clear thinking & organization.**
      d) They are not **opposites** but **allies, best friends**.
      e) Nehemiah was very **thorough** as a leader. *He knew the time schedule & even had his building list made.*
      f) He even knew the name of the keeper of the forest. (8)

   2. Slide12c **GIVE ME (7-10)**

   3. How does this relate to **Ezra 8:22** who, for integrity’s sake, wouldn’t ask this from the king?
      a) **Ezra** refused military protection for a **testimony to the faithfulness of God** (i.e. God will take care of his own)
b) **Nehemiah** on the other hand was a **governor** on **official business**; he could not travel without his military escort.

D. (8) He trusted in the Lords **strong hand** (1:10) & in His **good hand** (2:8) to accomplish this great task.

E. Now, 3 essentials to Christian Service: **Investigation, Cooperation, Determination.**

**VI. Slide13 INVESTIGATION (11-16) Feel it, experience it yourself**

A. Before asking for help, he **personally** was acquainted with the needs.
   1. He’s forced to **dismount** & have to actually **stumble over** the debris.
   2. Horseback to on foot.
   3. Slide14 Difference of watching **ground zero** on TV to standing next to it after 9-11
      a) Such emotional ties. [St Patricks Cathedral, Bag Pipes, orange buckets]

B. Dedicated leaders are awake when others are asleep.
   1. Slide15a They also **see more in darkness** than others see in the daylight.
   2. **In the night...by night** (12,13) - **It was dark.**
      a) Slide15b This is when God has you wrestle in some dark Gethsemane prayer.

**VII. Slide16 COOPERATION (17,18) Secure others to help you**

A. (17,18) Nehemiah didn’t believe in a **one-man band**.
   1. He challenged the leaders to work **with** him, **not for** him.
   2. Slide17 **1 can chase a 1000, but 2 put 10,000 to flight.** Deut.32:30 paraphrase
   3. The motive? To **not** be a reproach (17b).
      a) He sought the **Glory** of God & the **Good** of the nation.

B. If you are a **Leader** here are some questions.²
   1. Do you have a **burden first in your heart** for the work the Lord has given you to do? (12)
   2. Next, are you willing to **sacrifice** to see it accomplished?
   3. Are you **patient** in gathering the facts & **planning** the work?
   4. Are you willing to allow others to **help you & learn** along w/you, or are you a lone ranger?
   5. Are people following **you** or the **Lord**?

C. If the Lord has you as a **Follower in a ministry**…

² Adapted from Warren Weirsbe, pg.35
1. Do you listen to your leader?
2. Do you share his/her burdens?
3. Do you cling to the past & are afraid of God doing something new?
4. Are you cooperating w/the enemy in any way?
5. Do you tend to be a destroyer or a builder?

D. Slide 18,19 Well, when ever you are shown the needs, decided to meet that need, & then rise to the occasion…then opposition is usually aroused. (19,20)

VIII. Slide 20 DETERMINATION (19,20) Push through trouble

A. Slide 21 (19,20) Who are these guys?

1. Sanballat – chief political enemy of Nehemiah.
   a) He was governor of Samaria. Hear his attitude in 4:1,2.
   b) A letter found by archeologists dated to 407 BC confirmed his position.

2. Tobiah – is thought to be a Jew w/lands in Gilead. [name means pleasing to Jehovah]
   a) He has many family ties in Jerusalem.
   b) The phrase Ammonite official refers to his position, not his race.


B. Slide 22,23 The weapon of ridicule is the only weapon some carry…and boy they can wield it well.

1. This is the very weapon enemies used back in Ezra 4.

2. Ridicule is a very effective means to discourage us from acting.
   a) A smirk, a raised eyebrow, or a mocking laugh have kept many Christians from teaching Children’s Church, playing an instrument, following a call to the mission field, or moving towards full time ministry.
   b) Have you ever run into a Sanballat or a Tobiah? They have many descendants in society today…ever meet one?
      (1) I remember being discouraged from moving out here.
   c) What have you been talked out of? Embarrassed by?
   d) Will you pray about doing them again?

3. This means encouragement must go so far, if the opposite is true.
   a) Who on the other hand has been quiet the encouragement to you? (Gary Ansdell w/Is.61)

C. Nehemiah performed no signs, no wonders, nor any prophesy’s, he just faithfully did his work & prepared a city for the coming of the Messiah. Dan.9:25.